

From: Dresser, Sammie on behalf of Zapien, Ivan
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:34 AM
To: sid.ravishankar@mail.house.gov
Subject: Saudi Arabia's Position on the Conflict in Ukraine
Attachments: Fact Sheet Saudi Arabia on Ukraine March 2023.pdf

Dear Sid,

On behalf of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia, I wanted to keep you informed as to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's position on the war in Ukraine. Please see the attached fact sheet, which describes the Kingdom's position on the conflict. The Kingdom is focused on de-escalation and ending the violence. The Kingdom has maintained open channels of dialogue with the leaders of Russia and Ukraine to bring an end to the conflict and human suffering.

Recently, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, led a historic visit to Kyiv, becoming the first Saudi official to visit the country in 30-years and the most senior official from an Arab country since the start of the conflict. During the Foreign Minister's visit, Saudi Arabia agreed to send \$400 million in assistance to Ukraine.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

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Fact Sheet: Saudi Arabia's Position on the Conflict in Ukraine

March 2023



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committed to international peace and stability based on the sovereignty of states, international law and the UN Charter. Over the past year, Saudi Arabia has joined with the majority of the U.N. General Assembly members condemning Russian annexation and military action in Ukraine. Further, Saudi Arabia has provided critical humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people and played a vital mediation role in the release of prisoners. Most recently, Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister led the most senior delegation from any Arab country to Kyiv since the start of the conflict.

These actions are in line with our core principles. We are focused on de-escalation and ending the violence. This is why we have maintained open channels of dialogue with the leaders of Russia and Ukraine to bring an end to the conflict and human suffering.

Historic Visit

- On Feb. 26, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, led a historic visit to Kyiv, becoming the first Saudi official to visit the country in 30-years and the most senior official from an Arab country since the start of the conflict.
- The Foreign Minister met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his Chief-of-Staff Andriy Yermak, and Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, where he reiterated Saudi Arabia's commitment to resolving the conflict.

"We have been strategic partners with Saudi Arabia now for eight decades across multiple administrations and certainly across party lines and there's been ups and downs in this relationship. We've been very candid about that as well, but this announcement yesterday in Kyiv of \$400 million in support, largely to help Ukraine recover from the energy attacks on their infrastructure, is an important one."

– John Kirby, U.S. National Security Council

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Humanitarian Assistance

- During the Foreign Minister's visit, Saudi Arabia agreed to send \$400 million in assistance to Ukraine.
- This includes \$100 million of essential humanitarian aid and \$300 million of financing for oil products.
- President Zelensky noted Ukraine will never forget the Saudi support, and that it proves the Kingdom's friendship.
- In April 2022, Saudi Arabia provided \$10 million in medical and shelter aid for Ukrainian refugees fleeing to neighboring countries, especially Poland.

Standing with the International Community

Over the past year, Saudi Arabia has joined with the majority of U.N. General Assembly members to vote in favor of:

- **February 2023:** Calling for Russia to end hostilities in Ukraine and withdraw its forces.
- **October 2022:** Condemning Russia's attempted annexation of Ukrainian territory.
- **March 2022:** Demanding Russia end its invasion of Ukraine and withdraw all military forces.

In October 2022, President Zelensky spoke to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and thanked him for supporting Ukraine's territorial integrity at the U.N. General Assembly.



Successful Mediation Efforts

- In September 2022, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman successfully mediated the release of 10 prisoners from five countries – U.S., UK, Morocco, Sweden and Croatia – in a POW exchange between Russia and Ukraine.
- U.S., British, Ukrainian and other government officials thanked Saudi Arabia for their leading efforts to facilitate the exchange.

Ensuring Energy Security

- Since the start of the conflict, Saudi Arabia has worked to ensure stability, balance and security in the oil markets.
- OPEC+'s decision in October 2022 helped rebalanced oil prices, which are now sitting around pre-Ukraine war levels.

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